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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1-18-2008

SPONSOR Cisneros LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE NM Buffalo Soldiers Monument SB 55

ANALYST Dearing

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$60.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 55 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Veterans' Services department for the purpose of placing a monument to honor the legacy of buffalo soldiers who have historically served in New Mexico.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY09 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In 1866 Congress created six African American army units. These units became the first African American professional soldiers in the US Military. The nickname "buffalo soldier" began with the Cheyenne warriors in 1867 out of respect for the fierce fighting ability of the 10th Cavalry. Over time, buffalo soldier became a generic term for all African American soldiers. Buffalo soldiers served in New Mexico for eight years, from 1867 to 1975, mostly in the southern and southeastern areas of New Mexico. They also served under General John J. Pershing's campaign to capture Pancho Villa, the famous raider of Columbus, NM.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Senate Bill 55 does not specify where the monument is intended to be placed.

PD/mt